



STD Surveillance Network

A reduction in staff or funding for this activity would cause the program to not be able to meet contractual obligations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If funding was increased, this expanded surveillance protocol could be conducted in more areas of the state.

Objective

To obtain information that can be used to interrupt and prevent the spread of gonorrhea.

Performance Indicators

1. To interview at least 300 patients from Orleans Parish with gonorrhea annually.
2. To develop and maintain a database of all patient visits at the STD clinic in Orleans parish.

Narrative

The STD Surveillance Network (SSuN) is a network of collaborating sites with the capacity to implement a wide variety of surveillance activities, the flexibility to rapidly modify the activities over time as trends dictate, and the ability to use surveillance data to guide programmatic action. SSuN strengthens the human capacity and IT infrastructure at both the STD clinic and project area level (state health department). The SSuN Surveillance Platform, is intended to establish a network of collaborating sites with the capacity to jointly conduct STD clinic and population-based surveillance activities including: monitoring the prevalence of STDs, HIV, viral hepatitis, and risk behaviors in MSM; assessing trends in the burden of genital wart disease in patients attending STD clinics; monitoring HIV testing coverage in patients attending STD clinics; and implementing population-based enhanced gonorrhea surveillance.

Better Health

By integrating systems, duplicative efforts can be eliminated, common systems and protocols can be developed, and personnel capacity and training can be combined for more efficient use of local resources.

Youth Education

- A CDC study showed that overall, one in four girls in the United States had a sexually transmitted disease. Teens in the study were tested for four infections: chlamydia, trichomoniasis, herpes simplex and the human papillomavirus.
- Students perform better when they show up for class, healthy and ready to learn. STD treatment is needed by a significant portion of Louisiana's youth.

Safe and Thriving Children and Families

- Poverty among Louisiana's citizens has hampered the ability of citizens to receive appropriate treatment for sexually transmitted diseases in a timely manner. Delayed treatment leads to unnecessary spread of disease and complications including infertility. Over 50% of patients seen in STD clinics are less than 25 years old.

Hurricane Protection & Emergency Preparedness

- During an emergency STD staff serve as first responders (individuals involved in an emergency management role) to execute Emergency Support Function 8 tasks.

National STD morbidity surveillance data, reported through the National Electronic Telecommunication System for Surveillance (NETSS), currently includes a limited number of demographic data elements (e.g. age, race/ethnicity, sex, and county) collected from all states for a limited number of sexually transmitted diseases (chancroid, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis). Weekly reporting through NETSS is insufficient for rapid identification of many trends in other diseases, and does not support the collection and reporting of data on relevant STD behavioral and clinical information. Furthermore, even if trends in disease or risk behaviors are identified, the national STD morbidity surveillance infrastructure comprised of NETSS reporting from all states has limited capacity to be easily and rapidly modified.

Legal Authority: Partner services are supported by RS 40:1062 – Infection of other prohibited, RS 40:1063 – Examination of persons suspected of being infected, and Louisiana Administrative Code Title 51 – Public Health – Sanitary Code Part II The Control of Diseases Chapter 1 paragraph 115 Investigations.

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